

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 237712
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00
SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05
FAA-00 WRDE-00 SCS-05 CA-01 COME-00 ACDA-10
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT:J T JOHNSON
APPROVED BY M/CT: AMB. ISHAM
NEA/AFN:DHESTER
EA/J:DCHRISTIANSON
S/S-O RPERITO

-----025107 032008Z /73

O 031945Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 237712

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, JA, AG

SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR
DEPARTMENT SPOKEMAN'S NOON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 3. SINCE
THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ON HIJACKING INCIDENT, MATERIAL
WAS NOT USED, BUT DEPARTMENT TRANSMITS FOR POSTS' USE,
AS APPROPRIATE.

2. QUOTE

Q - CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN
REMAINS ON BOARD THE HIJACKED JAL AIRCRAFT?
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A - YES, TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE RELEASED AND ONE
WAS RETAINED ON THE AIRCRAFT AT THE LAST REFUELING STOP
IN DAMASCUS.

Q - CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM? IS HE, AS REPORTED, A STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL?

A - HE IS THOMAS P. PHELAN, A DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT EMPLOYEE.

Q - CAN YOU CLARIFY WHEREVER MR. PHELAN IS EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A - NO. UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION SAFEGUARDING THE PRIVACY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, I AM UNABLE TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS.

Q - WHAT IS THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE AMERICANS RELEASED TO DATE? WE UNDERSTAND SOME MAY HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED.

A - GENERALLY SPEAKING, ALL ARE IN REASONABLY GOOD HEALTH, GIVEN THE TRYING CONDITIONS WHICH THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED. THREE AMERICANS WERE HOSPITALIZED FOR ATTENTION TO PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHICH WERE AGGRAVATED BY THE CONFINEMENT, BUT BY NOW, THEY HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

Q - HAS THE PLANE LANDED IN ALGIERS?

A - YES, AT 10:20 EDT.

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Q - HAS THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT GIVEN SAFEHAVEN TO THE HIJACKERS?

A - THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT BUT THIS WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE ALGERIAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS TO CONFIRM.

Q - CAN YOU TELL US WHAT ROLE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PLAYED DURING THIS INCIDENT?

A - THROUGHOUT THIS AFFAIR, WE MAINTAINED CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH JAPANESE AND BANGLADESH GOVERNMENTS, WHICH BORE THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING THE WELFARE OF THE AMERICAN CITIZEN HOSTAGES AS WELL AS THAT OF ALL OTHER PASSENGERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION UNTIL ALL HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

THE U.S. ALONG WITH MOST OF THE WORLD, CONDEMNS SUCH LAWLESS ACTS OF TERROR. WE WILL PRESS FOR THE APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF THE HIJACKERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED COMMITMENTS. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, INSTRUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE237712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: J T JOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770360-0348
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197710100/aaaadhvl.tel
Line Count: 116
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 737396
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAL HIJACKING: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, JA, AG
To: ALGIERS TOKYO
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